

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 01426 020949Z

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00
USIA-06 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /104 W
-----021412 109282 /50

R 020900Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5927

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 1426

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, SOPN, TS

SUBJECT: NON-ALIGNED MEETING ON INFORMATION OPENS IN TUNIS

REF: STATE 42806

1. THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT'S INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL ON INFORMATION AND MASS MEDIA OPENED MEETING IN TUNIS ON FEBRUARY 28 WITH DELEGATIONS FROM FIFTEEN MEMBER COUNTRIES AND SEVEN OBSERVERS. OPENING SESSION HEARD SPEECH BY GOT PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA THAT EMPHASIZED NON-ALIGNED OBJECTIVES OF CREATING "NEW INFORMATION ORDER" PARALLELING "NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER" IN THE CONTEXT OF DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION WITH DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. COUNCIL IMMEDIATELY BEGAN WORK ON LONG AGENDA.

2. NOUIRA'S SPEECH TO COUNCIL WAS SIMILAR TO SPEECH HE GAVE TO CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN AND ARAB PRESS AGENCIES MEETING IN TUNIS IN NOVEMBER 1976 (SEE 76 TUNIS 8333, 26 NOV 76), STRESSING THEMES THAT NON-ALIGNED NATIONS MUST ESTABLISH INFORMATION POLICY THAT SERVES THE NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IN FEB. 28 SPEECH, HOWEVER, HOUIRA NOTED THAT OBJECTIVITY SHOULD BE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF INFORMATION POLICY AND CRITICIZED "CERTAIN" JOURNALISTS OF WESTERN COUNTRIES FOR "ERRONEOUS CONCEPTION" OF THIRD WORLD AND A
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TUNIS 01426 020949Z

LACK OF OBJECTIVITY. HE SAID NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT SHOULD "COMBAT" MONOPOLIES OF INFORMATION AND SEEK FRUITFUL COOPERATION FOUNDED ON EQUALITY AND JUSTICE. HE SAID NAM PRESS POOLS AND THE INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES SHOULD COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER IN SERIOUS PARTNERSHIP RATHER THAN FALL INTO FRICTION AND RIVALRY.

3. TUNIS PRESS REPORTED THAT INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL AGENDA INCLUDES FOLLOWING SUBJECTS: (A) STUDY OF INTERNAL RULES FOR COUNCIL DRAFTED BY TUNISIA DEFINING STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF THE ORGANIZATION, (B) STUDY OF REPORT PREPARED BY TUNISIA AS COORDINATING COUNTRY ON NON-ALIGNED PERFORMANCE IN INFORMATION SPHERE, (C) STUDY OF MEANS TO IMPLEMENT ACTION PROGRAM ON INFORMATION POLICY ESTABLISHED AT COLOMBO SUMMIT, (D) STUDY OF COOPERATION BETWEEN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL AND UNESCO, (E) STUDY OF REPORT PREPARED BY INDIA ON WORK OF NON-ALIGNED PRESS POOLS SINCE COLOMBO SUMMIT, AND (F) STUDY OF REPORT PREPARED BY IRAQ IN ITS CAPACITY AS HOST FOR THE NEXT INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL MEETING. TUNIS PRESS ACCOUNT OF COUNCIL AGENDA NOTED THAT TUNISIA WILL REPORT ON PROGRESS MADE IN INFORMATION COOPERATION IN THE CONTEXT OF EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE AND DECISIONS MADE BY UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE MEETING IN NAIROBI "FAVORING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW WORLD ORDER FOR INFORMATION." PRESS ALSO NOTED THAT TUNISIA WILL PRESENT RESOLUTION CONCERNING UNESCO EFFORTS FAVORING "DECOLONIZATION OF THE MEANS OF INFORMATION."

4. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICER ON FEBRUARY 22, MAHMOUD TRIKI (CHIEF OF THE TUNISIAN PRESS AGENCY AND PRINCIPAL ACTION OFFER IN GOT ON NON-ALIGNED INFORMATION POLICY) DISCUSSED GOT ATTITUDES TOWARD NON-ALIGNED PRESS POOLS AND THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY IN THE COUNCIL. HE STRESSED THAT TUNISIA WANTS MULTIPLICATION OF SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND NOT EXCLUSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS AGENCIES. HE NOTED IMPASSE AT RECENT CAIRO CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TUNIS 01426 020949Z

NON-ALIGNED MEETING ON INFORMATION POLICY AND ATTRIBUTED IT TO EFFORTS BY INDIA AND CUBA TO "GRAB" THE INITIATIVE IN NON-ALIGNED INFORMATION FOR THEIR PAROCHIAL PROPAGANDA OBJECTIVES. TUNISIA, HE SAID, OPPOSES THIS AND IS ENCOURAGING WHAT IT BELIEVES TO BE MORE FRUITFUL COURSES OF ACTION.

5. TRIKI MADE SPECIAL NOTE OF CUBAN EFFORTS TO HAVE PRENSA LATINA DESIGNATED AS THE NON-ALIGNED POOL FOR LATIN AMERICA. HE SAID THIS ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO MOST LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES SINCE CUBA WOULD DEPEND ON SOVIET TASS RESOURCES TO DISSEMINATE NEWS. HE SAID TUNISIA IS ENCOURAGING MEXICO TO USE NOTIMEX AS NON-ALIGNED PRESS POOL IN LATIN AMERICA TO COUNTER CUBAN EFFORTS.

6. TO ILLUSTRATE WHAT TUNISIA HOPES TO ACHIEVE IN NON-ALIGNED INFORMATION POLICY TRIKI CITED GROWING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HIS AGENCY AND AGENCIES OF 12 ARAB STATES AND WITH

WEST GERMAN AGENCY DPA. HE DESCRIBED THIS AS MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION THAT EFFECTIVELY WIDENS NEWS SOURCES FOR ALL PARTIES CONCERNED.

7. COMMENT: NOUIRA SPEECH TO INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL APPEARS TO BE GENERALLY POSITIVE EXCEPT FOR ACCUSATION OF NON-OBJECTIVITY BY SOME WESTERN JOURNALISTS. IF READ IN CONTEXT OF TUNISIAN SITUATION, THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS NOUIRA'S RESENTMENT AGAINST NEWSMEN WHO REFUSE TO WRITE ARTICLES ABOUT HIS DOMESTIC ECONOMIC POLICIES THAT PRAISE HIM AS LAVISHLY AS THE TUNIS PRESS. IF READ IN THE CONTEXT OF NON-ALIGNED POLITICS, NOUIRA APPEARS TO BE "PLAYING TO THE GALLERIES" BY APPEALING TO THE PREJUDICES OF HIS MORE RADICAL GUESTS.

8. REQUEST DEPARTMENT DISSEMINATE AS DESIRED TO OTHER ADDRESSEES.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 TUNIS 01426 020949Z

MULCAHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFORMATION MEDIA, NONALIGNED NATIONS MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TUNIS01426
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770071-1111
Format: TEL
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770399/aaaadjnm.tel
Line Count: 140
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bbbad7be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 42806
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3225259
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NON-ALIGNED MEETING ON INFORMATION OPENS IN TUNIS
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, SOPN, TS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bbbad7be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009